GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:445
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2007
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN LABOURERS
Chaure Shri Bapu Hari

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the women working as agricultural labourers and engaged in other works for their livelihood with men are being discriminated against even today in the matter of payment of wages as reported in `Dainik Jagran` dated April 5, 2007;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take stern action and issue strict guidelines for compliance by all the States in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 445 FOR ANSWER ON 07.05.2007 REGARDING `DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN LABOURERS` BY SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE AND PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR.

(a) & (b): The news item published in the `Dainik Jagran` dated April 5, 2007 is based on average daily wage rates data pertaining to 18 selected agricultural and non-agricultural occupations collected from 600 sample villages belonging to 20 selected States for the month of November, 2006 as published in February, 2007 issue of Indian Labour Journal, brought out by Labour Bureau, Shimla.

As per the information collected under Rural Labour Enquiry Scheme, the average daily wage rates for women labourers work out to be lower than those for male labourers in most of the specified agricultural and non-agricultural occupations. Such a disparity could, inter-alia, be attributed to discriminatory practices due to existing social norms and inadequate accounting of the overall work output of women, particularly in agricultural sector.

(c) & (d): The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 provides for equal remuneration without discrimination between men and women workers in respect of wages and other amenities. The Act is being implemented by the State Governments. The Central Government monitors the action taken by the State Governments in the implementation of the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976. The State Governments are addressed form time to time to ensure strict compliance of the provisions of the Act.